

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GY, VE, BR

SUBJECT: MAR 10 ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST - PRESS
GUIDANCE

REF: GEORGETOWN 0394

1. JOANNE OMANG'S LENGTHY REPORT ON GUYANA AND HER
INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS
HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO ALL POSTS VIA THE USIS WIRELESS
FILE. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR
DEPT SPOKESMAN TO USE AT NOON BRIEFING. THIS GUIDANCE
WAS NOT USED. POST MAY DRAW UPON THIS GUIDANCE IN
RESPONDING TO LOCAL INQUIRIES. PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

Q1. IS IT TRUE THAT THE USG IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LEAKING
INFORMATION CLAIMING A CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN
GUYANA?

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A1. NO, IT IS NOT TRUE; THESE REPORTS FIRST APPEARED IN THE VENEZUELAN AND BRAZILIAN PRESS. WE DO NOT KNOW THE SOURCES FOR THOSE ARTICLES. IT WAS NOT US; THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THESE VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THERE IS A CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN GUYANA.

Q2. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO DISPUTE THE GUYANESE DENIAL OF A MILITARY PRESENCE IN GUYANA?

A2. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD SUPPORT CLAIMS OF A CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN GUYANA.

Q3. DID SECRETARY KISSINGER ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE AN ANTI-GUYANESE CAMPAIGN DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, AS THE GUYANESE CLAIM?

A3. NO. THE SECRETARY STATED REPEATEDLY TO THE PRESS, BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER HIS TRIP, THAT HE WAS NOT MAKING THIS TRIP TO GENERATE OPPOSITION TO CUBA. HE DID NOT RAISE THE MATTER IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCES OR IN HIS PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. THE PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE USG ATTACHES TO RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND TO DISCUSS WITH CHIEFS OF STATE, FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND OTHER LEADERS PENDING ISSUES AND FUTURE COOPERATION. IT WAS NOT TO ORGANIZE A MOVEMENT TO ISOLATE CUBA OR TO CREATE ILL FEELINGS TOWARD GUYANA.

Q4. WHAT IS THE USG POSITION TOWARD BURNHAM'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A SOCIALIST STATE IN GUYANA?

A4. WE HAVE INFORMED THE GOG THAT WE ACCEPT DIVERSITY WITHIN THIS HEMISPHERE AND THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC VIEWS ARE NOT IDENTICAL AND WE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA.

Q5. IS PATRICK TENASSEE AN EMPLOYEE OF AIFLD IN GUYANA?

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A5. MR. TENASSEE IS NOT NOW NOR HAS HE EVER BEEN AN AIFLD EMPLOYEE.

Q6. DID THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE EVER PROTEST GUYANA'S PERMITTING CUBAN AIRCRAFT TO REFUEL AT ITS AIRPORT IN TRANSIT TO AND FROM ANGOLA?

A6. WE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR TO THE GOG IN LATE

DECEMBER. OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER HAS NOT CHANGED.

Q7. WHAT WILL BE OUR POSITION SHOULD GUYANA PERMIT
CUBAN AIRCRAFT TO TRANSIT ENROUTE TO MOZAMBIQUE?

A7. THIS IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION.

Q8. THE GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMS THAT TEXACO
REFUSED, AT U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT URGING, TO SUPPLY
FUEL TO CUBAN PLANES. IS WILLS' VERSION CORRECT?

A8. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS UNAWARE OF ANY U.S.
GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON TEXACO.
KISSINGER

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